



# Teacher Apprenticeship Act

## Frequently Asked Questions | 2024

### What is a teacher apprenticeship program (TAP)?

A teacher apprenticeship program is created and funded by a state to strengthen its teacher pipeline through partnerships between school districts and education preparation providers.

### What are the benefits?

Teacher apprenticeship programs help address teacher shortages and create pathways for individuals to become teachers. ExcelinEd's Teacher Apprenticeship Act [model policy](#) allows states to leverage funds from existing federal programs to support teacher apprenticeship programs that recruit and prepare educators at all stages.

### How can teacher apprenticeship programs help with teacher shortages?

By providing financial and career incentives to prospective teachers, teacher apprenticeship programs help create strong and diverse teacher pipelines. Teacher apprenticeship programs also ensure that teacher candidates master the skills and competencies that are necessary to become highly effective teachers and remain in the profession.

### Who can participate?

Eligible teacher candidates can be (but are not limited to) current high school students, para-educators, individuals with bachelor's degrees from other fields, or any other candidate working in an education position.

### How do teacher apprenticeship programs work?

To create a teacher apprenticeship program, school districts submit an application in partnership with a state-approved educator preparation provider. If the application is approved by the state Department of Education, the school district and EPP may create the program.

### Spotlight on Tennessee

Tennessee's Teacher Apprenticeship Model allows high school graduates to obtain a bachelor's degree and teaching certification for free. Teacher apprentices also earn a living wage as they progress through the program.



## Spotlight on Indiana

Indiana created an apprenticeship program with a focus on special education. Students who participate in the program will graduate from Ball State University a year early with a degree in elementary education and a concentration in special education.

## Why do we need state involvement?

The state is responsible for funding teacher apprenticeship programs and ensuring that districts have the resources and tools to support successful programs. State funds can be used to pay for various expenditures related to the program, including stipends for teacher candidates and mentors. This funding can help recruit candidates by providing financial incentives.

## Contact

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